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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000158

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SUBJECT: SCHEDULING THE NEXT U.S.-BAHRAIN GULF SECURITY DIALOGUE TALKS

REF: STATE 19983

Classified By: Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

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¶1. (C) The Ambassador February 19 delivered reftel proposal to hold a Gulf Security Dialogue (GSD) session on March 8 in Washington to Crown Prince Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, during a meeting covering several subjects (septels). The Crown Prince agreed to hold the session on March 8, noting that he had heard it would begin at 11:00 am and last 90 minutes. He is still in the process of assembling his delegation, but said it would include representatives of the Ministries of Defense and Interior as well as the Bahrain National Security Agency.

¶2. (C) The CP said the Bahraini side was reviewing the "read-ahead" paper from the last GSD session, in October 2006, and would raise proposals related to missile defense and training - steps that would "make us feel more secure." He also looks forward to the opportunity to present officially Bahrain's views on Iran. The Ambassador welcomed the CP's personal attention to this important initiative.

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